

WILDLIFE

2 sentenced, 9 get trial dates after probe of '91 deer hunt

Associated Press

HEBER CITY — Judge Joseph Dimick has sentenced two men and set trial dates for nine others charged following a Department of Wildlife Resources undercover investigation during last fall's deer hunt.

Wildlife Resources conservation officers said deer that had been shot and left in the field before the hunt opened were marked so they could be identified later. The officers said they watched hunters re-

turn to retrieve and tag the carcasses on the second day of the hunt.

Charges were filed against 13 men. Two of them were sentenced previously and two were sentenced Friday.

Benjamin A. Fitzgerald, 21, Heber City, pleaded guilty in April to a class A misdemeanor charge of aiding unlawful possession of protected wildlife, and a class B misdemeanor charge of aiding in wasting protected wildlife. Other

charges were dropped as a result of a plea bargain.

Fitzgerald was sentenced Friday to a fine of \$2,500 plus one year in jail on each count. However, all but 14 days in jail on each count, to run concurrently, and all the fines and fees, except a total of \$1,000, were suspended. He also must complete a 36-month supervised probation.

Richard L. McPhie, 45, Ogden, also was sentenced, after pleading guilty in April to a class B misdemeanor charge of failure to tag a deer during the 1991 deer hunt.

Dimick sentenced him to pay a \$200 fine and serve 30 days in Wasatch County Jail. But all of the jail term and all but a total of \$185 in fines and fees were suspended and he was put on a 12-month unsuper-

vised probation.

Scheduled for trial in 4th Circuit Court July 10 are Joe McPhie, 59, Heber City; Timothy Joe McPhie, 35, Heber City; Chad A. Giles, 27, Midway; Scott McPhie, 20, Heber City; and Brandon O. Graham, 21, Midway.

The five are charged with a total of 45 counts of aiding or assisting unlawful possession of protected wildlife, wasting protected wildlife and unlawful use of another's license.

Also charged and scheduled for trial is Lloyd Popp, 47, Heber City. Kim Earl Snyder, 27, no residence listed, is scheduled to be tried Aug. 7. Scheduled for trial Aug. 14 are Wade Ryan, 28, no residence listed, and Alan M. Giles, 49, Midway.

well as improve water management, those subjects are addressed in different sections of the bill, they aren't separate issues, he said. In addition, Wilson said, the planning process itself is complicated, having to take into account the total environment and all water issues, from resources to use and the effects of all proposals on downstream users.

During a meeting last Wednesday, attended by representatives from the district and local government entities, local water users, and Montana's Montana Wildlife Restoration and Enhancement Commission, the Central Utah Water Conservancy District, state and local governments, as well as the public, all must cooperate and be satisfied, according to David Wilson, county water consultant and a member of the district governing board.

Nine men accused of hunting violations pleaded guilty in 4th Circuit Court, presided over by Dimick.

Nine Plead Guilty To Hunting Violations

7-29-92

1, Uintah County Attorney prosecuting the who is acquainted the defendants, to stance of a conflict

, 27, Midway; Joe Heber City; Timothy Heber City, and 21, Heber City, ot guilty pleas and o two counts of ng unlawful posed wildlife, a class and one count of wildlife, a class B additional related missed as the result "hybrid", because He said the

way, withdrew not guilty pleas and pleaded guilty to two counts of aiding or assisting unlawful possession of protected wildlife, a class A misdemeanor, and one class B misdemeanor charge of aiding and assisting in wasting protected wildlife. He was sentenced to pay fines of \$2,500 and serve one year in jail for each of the class As, and \$1,000 plus six months in jail for the class B. Execution of the sentences was stayed until after a pre-sentence investigation and a review on Aug. 21.

Alan M. Giles, 49, Midway, withdrew not guilty pleas and pleaded guilty to one class A misdemeanor charge of aiding or assisting unlawful taking/ possession of protected wildlife, and one class B misdemeanor charge of aiding or assisting in wasting protected wildlife. He was ordered to



John Best photo

Bruce Giunta saddles his horse for a spring trail ride in 1991.

Oct 1992 Giunta new DWR big game manager

By JOHN BEST
Herald Correspondent

SPRINGVILLE — Orem resident Bruce Giunta has done a lot for Utah's wildlife, and now he is in the driver's seat of big game management for the central region of Utah.

On Jan. 3 of this year, Giunta was named Central Regional Big Game Manager for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

In his new position Giunta will oversee programs dealing with all game species from sage grouse to elk in five central Utah counties. He comes to this assignment with good experience from a variety of wildlife positions.

He began his service with wildlife resources 23 years ago when he took a position as superintendent of the Hardware Ranch near Logan. He spent six years as a research biologist at the Great Basin Experiment Station, where he worked on game range restoration projects. For another eight years, Giunta ran the state big game range-trend monitoring program. He also served as a federal aid coordinator, and most recently he has been a wildlife biologist in the central region.

The new game manager steps into his position at a challenging time. A large percentage of Utah hunters are dissatisfied with current hunting trends. Hunters want more and bigger deer, farmers want smaller herds of deer and elk. Deer and elk herds are literally dying from lack of sufficient winter range land in the central region, and developers are gobbling up remaining range land for developments. There are no easy answers.

Giunta was asked about the public's desire for more and bigger deer.

He answered, "It's no great mystery how to achieve this. The public must understand we're dealing with a finite resource. We can achieve this goal but the public will have to give up something to achieve it. They may have to give up some hunting privileges. This is the theory of the 'choose your season' hunts. If that doesn't work, hunters may even have to forfeit hunting privileges some years."

"To get more or bigger deer, we simply have to reduce the number of deer harvested. Deer will have to be allowed to live longer to produce bigger animals. A good trophy is five years old or older. Hunters are more plentiful and more efficient than they were 20 years ago — especially rifle hunters, with high power guns, scopes, and four wheel drive outfits. With that kind of competition, it's difficult for deer to mature."

Giunta was asked what the biggest challenge facing the central region game manager would be.

"To preserve wildlife resources that we have, and prevent further loss or degradation of habitat," he responded. "It is important that we follow a management plan to preserve resources or we will not have sufficient wildlife for future generations to enjoy. If destruction of resources continues, as it has in the past, there will not be plentiful wildlife for our children's children."

Deer and elk seem to be two areas of major concentration for big game managers. However, Giunta says he has many other goals to accomplish with other species as well.

"I'd like to see thriving populations of wild turkeys in many areas of the central region."